



July 21, 2006

TO: COUNTY OFFICES OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS
COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH CHILDREN'S COORDINATORS
OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES

SUBJECT: EARLY MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE: EMHI-2006

REFERENCE: Welfare and Institutions Code, Division 4, Part 4 (commencing with
Section 4370)

The California Department of Mental Health (DMH) invites Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to apply for funding through the Early Mental Health Initiative (EMHI). The requirements of EMHI are outlined in Chapter 757, Statutes of 1991 (Assembly Bill 1650), the School-Based Early Mental Health Intervention and Prevention Services for Children Act. Funding is available through the EMHI Request for Application (RFA) process to implement early mental health intervention and prevention services that target students in kindergarten through third grade who attend a publicly funded elementary school or state special school.

Approximately \$5.0 million will be available to fund new programs during Fiscal Year 2006-2007. Eligible applicants are LEAs, which are defined as publicly funded county offices of education (COE), school districts, and state special schools. LEAs are required to develop applications and provide services in cooperation with the local mental health programs and/or private non-profit mental health agencies.

The EMHI provides for a three-year grant with the state share of funding not to exceed 50 percent (50%) of the total program cost. LEAs and/or local non-profit mental health agencies are required to match the state funding by providing at least 50 percent (50%) of the total program cost.

No more than five new school sites may be funded per school district except in large districts that have been regionalized administratively. Regionalized districts may apply for up to five school sites per region, up to 10 school sites per school district.

Small school districts in the same counties are encouraged to pool resources and expertise to promote economy of scale and avoid duplication of efforts. Up to three school districts may submit a joint application that includes no more than five school sites. The COE may submit a consortium application that is limited to no more than five school districts and seven school sites. The consortium grant recipient will be the COE who may designate one of the participating school districts to assume fiscal and administrative responsibility for the consortium. The maximum amount of state funding available each fiscal year is \$40,000 for each school site.

Priority will be given to applications that best meet the requirements of the RFA at the lowest cost per student to receive services. All applications must demonstrate that the proposed services are research-based and must be based on adoption of models that have been shown to be effective and that meet the needs of culturally and ethnically diverse communities.

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 13, 2006. The enclosed RFA includes an estimated time schedule for awarding grants.

If you have any questions regarding the RFA or need additional information about EMHI, please contact the DMH, EMHI staff at (916) 653-7988.

TERRIE TATOSIAN
Deputy Director
Administrative Services

Enclosures

cc: Superintendent of Public Instruction